

Application No. 10/626,476

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Hall, III reference does not disclose a sensor or sensors "coupled to the conduit" as recited by the claims. The Office Action refers to Figure 14 of Hall (see Office Action at page 2) but although a conduit is clearly illustrated in Figure 14 there is no sensor depicted anywhere in Figure 14, much less one that is "coupled" to the conduit.

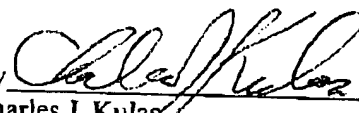
No specific Figure or text showing a "coupling" of a sensor to the conduit is cited in the Office Action. Applicant has spend considerable time reviewing Hall to find evidence of any coupling (note that the Hall, III reference is 102 pages long). The best that Applicant can discover is that sensor 200 is shown in Figure 15 of Hall where an electrical signal line from the sensor crosses another line representing "conduit" 231. Obviously this was done only for convenience in illustrating the system of Hall, III in a two-dimensional drawing and does not disclose a "coupling."

Whenever a sensor is mentioned in Hall, the sensor is only described as being coupled to a computer or controller. E.g., "Also shown in FIG. 1 is indirect sensor 20, shown linked to computer 10 by way of data transmission lines 21 in combination with controller 22." Hall at col. 14, lines 27-29.

Applicant respectfully requests that any further reliance upon Hall, III for showing that a sensor is coupled to a conduit should point out a Figure where both the sensor and conduit are illustrated together, or a line of text where both "sensor" and "conduit" exist in the same sentence and their "coupling" is described.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly sought. The undersigned may be contacted at the telephone number below at the Examiner's convenience if it would help in the prosecution of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,
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